



REGIONAL ADVISORY  
**COUNCIL**  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

**newsletter**

**Jerry Jeffe, Chair**

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## **From Jerry Jeffe 1996-1997 Regional Advisory Council Chair**



Recently I traveled to Washington, D.C. representing the Regional

Advisory Council at a meeting of the Regional Civic Organization Network. This meeting was held in conjunction with the National Civic League, chaired by John Gardner, founder of Common Cause.

Throughout the nation there are many thriving regional civic organizations, or RCOs. They serve their communities by examining the needs of their region and working constructively to address public policy issues. They mobilize local citizens to become involved in problem solving and community change by utilizing various problem-solving processes.

The Regional Civic Organization Network was organized in 1995 following years of informal sharing of techniques, approaches, and solutions to regional problems. The organization is dedicated to serving its members and furthering the causes of regional problem solving to help make the nation's metropolitan regions as livable as possible. Mark Pisano, Executive Director of

the Southern California Association of Governments, was instrumental in creating the RCO network and in guiding its path.

During my stay in Washington, I met about 40 persons who were representing their citizen-based organizations from all over the nation. A major topic of discussion was how the various RCOs can assist one another. A result of our discussions is to have everyone linked through the Internet. Also, it was announced that a directory of RCOs is now available for the purpose of contacting our colleagues in other parts of the nation.

From this meeting I discovered that our Regional Advisory Council is at the forefront of the nation by involving our Southern California citizens to help solve our regional problems. Those attending the meeting validated some of our concepts such as organizing a Regional Citizenry, making better use of the Internet, and a willingness to tackle some of the tough problems facing Southern California.

I observed that this nation is blessed with outstanding and dedicated individuals and community organizations who have come together in their local communities to address regional issues. They understand that in order to solve problems such as transportation, or air pollution, it is necessary to enlist the assistance of all citizens, regardless of city or county boundaries.

The message that I have for everyone is that this country has

realized that regions are the level at which problem-solving and service delivery are occurring.

Because of this, it is important to work with and support the Regional Advisory Council and SCAG in order to effectively address our regional challenges.

## **Annual General Assembly on March 27**

Each year the Southern California Association of Governments holds its annual General Assembly. The General Assembly has the powers and functions of making policy decisions and determining broad policy matters for SCAG. It also reviews proposed fiscal matters and adopts an annual budget and assessment schedule. Each SCAG member county and each member city is allowed one official representative and one alternate for the General Assembly, except the City of Los Angeles which is allowed three of each. The Regional Advisory Council also plays an important role in the event by officially participating in the Assembly's many activities.

On March 27 at the Marriott Desert Springs Hotel in the picturesque Coachella Valley city of Palm Desert, the General Assembly will convene. SCAG President Dick Kelly, who also is Mayor of Palm Desert, will chair the event. Two concurrent afternoon workshops are scheduled.

They will tackle such issues as Southern California's role in the global economy, featuring a panel of prominent economists and business leaders. The other workshop will feature advanced transportation technology experts. A "must" while attending the General Assembly will be the commercial exhibits featuring electric vehicle technology and demonstration rides in a state-of-the-art electric car.

The Regional Advisory Council will be presenting its annual breakfast meeting, always the highlight of the General Assembly. This year's keynote breakfast speaker will be Andrea Van de Kamp, one of the leading Southern California individuals involved in philanthropic and civic endeavors.

Anyone interested in receiving more information about the General Assembly or attending, please contact Clint Rosemond at (213) 236-1878.

## Regional Transportation Plan

A properly planned and efficient regional transportation system is necessary to reduce traffic congestion, meet air quality standards, and move goods and people efficiently to maintain prosperity in the region. Composed of six counties--Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial--the Southern California Association of Governments region of 38,000 square miles currently has a population exceeding 15 million persons. Growth projections indicate that by the year 2020 the region's population will surpass 20 million residents. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six counties, the Southern California Association of Governments is responsible for the preparation and adoption of a regional transportation plan, to be periodically updated.

SCAG has prepared an easy-to-understand question and answer flier on the Regional Transportation Plan. To receive a copy of the Regional Transportation Plan's question and answer flier, please write to SCAG or call 213-630-1444. Beginning in January 1997 the public will be able to receive the question and answer pamphlet on the web page.

## Regional Advisory Council Meetings

The Regional Advisory Council welcomes the public and members of the Regional Citizenry to attend its meetings. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at SCAG headquarters, 818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA from 11 a.m to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Clint Rosemond at 213-236-1878.

### LIST OF SCAG PUBLICATIONS:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. <b>Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide Summary</b> | <b>\$ 6.00</b> |
| 2. <b>Regional Economic Profile</b>                     | <b>\$15.00</b> |
| 3. <b>Regional Mobility Plan Video</b>                  | <b>\$12.00</b> |
| 4. <b>Accessing Low Income Housing Credits</b>          | <b>\$15.00</b> |
| 5. <b>Air Cargo in the SCAG Region</b>                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |
| 6. <b>Around the Region (quarterly newsletter)</b>      | <b>FREE</b>    |

*For information on how to order publications contact Javier Minjares at (213) 236-1893*

### HOW TO JOIN THE REGIONAL CITIZENRY

Please send me information:

- How can I become involved as a Regional Citizen?
- Place me on your SCAG mailing list.
- Have someone call me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



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